

## **EXHIBIT C-4**

medical bills not covered by their pet insurance, prescription medication bills, damage to their personal property including rugs and carpets caused by their's pet's illness, and the costs of future medical monitoring of their dog.

31. As a result of Defendants' wrongful actions, Plaintiffs and Class members have sick or deceased pets, and have suffered economic damages, including, but not limited to, the costs of the recalled pet food, the costs of medical treatment for their pets, burial costs, the costs to replace their pets, and the costs to replace or clean personal property damaged as a result of their pets' illnesses.

32. In addition, their pets will require continuous medical monitoring to gauge the long-term effects of the contaminated pet food on their kidney functions and overall health. Therefore, because the precise impact on the health of class members' pets is not currently known, Plaintiffs and the Class seek the cost of medical monitoring for their pets.

#### CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

33. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated.

34. The class which Plaintiffs seek to represent are composed of all persons in the United States who purchased any of the pet food brands manufactured by Defendants during the period commencing December 3, 2006, and ending March 6, 2007 (the "Class Period") that were recalled by Defendants.

35. The class is composed of thousands, and possibly millions, of persons, the joinder of whom is not practicable. The disposition of their claims in a class action will benefit both the parties and the Court. Defendants have recalled 60 million cans of pet food that it sold

throughout the United States during the Class Period, and thus the Class is sufficiently numerous to make joinder impracticable, if not impossible.

36. There are questions of fact and law which are common to all members of the class, including, inter alia, the following:

1. Whether Defendants breached any express or implied warranties when they manufactured and sold the recalled pet food;
2. Whether Defendants' negligently manufactured and sold the recalled pet food; and
3. Whether the Class has been damaged, and if so, the appropriate measure of damages including the nature of the equitable relief to which the class is entitled.

37. The above common issues of fact and law predominate over any arguable individualized issues.

38. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the other members of the class because Plaintiffs' and all of the Class members' damages arise from and were caused by having purchased and fed the recalled pet food to their pets. As a result, the evidence and the legal theories regarding Defendants' alleged wrongful conduct are identical for Plaintiffs and all of the Class members.

39. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class, and Plaintiffs have no interests which are contrary to or in conflict with those of the Class they seek to represent. Plaintiffs have retained competent counsel experienced in class action litigation to further ensure such protection and to prosecute this action vigorously.

40. The prosecution of separate actions by individual members of the class would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the

class, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for the party opposing the class and would lead to repetitious trials of the numerous common questions of facts and law.

Plaintiffs do not believe that any difficulty will be encountered in the management of this litigation that would preclude its maintenance as a class action. Plaintiffs believe and therefore aver that claims are small in relation to the costs of an individual suit, and a class action is the only proceeding pursuant to which Class members can, as a practical matter, recover. As a result a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy.

41. Proper and sufficient notice of this action may be provided to the Class members through notice published in appropriate publications.

42. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered irreparable harm and damages as a result of the Defendants' wrongful conduct as alleged herein. Absent representative action, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class will continue to suffer losses, thereby allowing these violations of law to proceed without remedy.

#### **COUNT I - BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

43. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs as if they were fully set forth herein.

44. Defendants expressly warranted that the recalled brands of pet food were, in fact, ingestible food that was safe for consumption by dogs and cats.

45. In addition, Defendants made numerous express warranties about the quality of its food and its manufacturing facilities. For example, Menu Foods touts the claim that it "manufacture[s] the private-label wet pet-food industry's most comprehensive product program

with the highest standards of quality" and it operates "state-of-the-art" manufacturing facilities in the United States and Canada.

46. Members of the Class were induced by Defendants' labeling, advertising and marketing the recalled brands of pet food as "food" to rely upon said express warranty, and did so rely in purchasing the recalled brands of pet food and feeding them to their pets.

47. In reliance on Defendants' untrue warranties, Plaintiffs and the Class purchased the recalled pet food and fed that food to their pets.

48. Plaintiffs and members of the Class sustained damages as a proximate result of said breach of warranty.

**COUNT II - BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY  
OF MERCHANTABILITY**

49. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs as if they were fully set forth herein.

50. Defendants are merchants pursuant to sections 2-104 and 2-314 of the Uniform Commercial Code with respect to pet foods.

51. Through Defendants' marketing, labeling, and sales, Defendants impliedly warranted that the recalled pet food, which was sold to Plaintiffs and Class members and fed to their pets, was fit for the ordinary purpose for which it was intended, namely, to safely feed and nourish pets without any resulting negative health effects, pursuant to section 2-314 of the Uniform Commercial Code.

52. Through Defendants' marketing, labeling, and sales, Defendants knew that Plaintiffs and Class members would purchase the recalled pet food at issue for the ordinary purpose of feeding their pets.

53. Defendants manufactured, labeled, advertised, sold, and distributed the recalled pet foods at issue for the ordinary purpose for which it was purchased by Plaintiffs.

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007

Page 6 of 38

54. Plaintiffs and Class members purchased and used the recalled pet foods for the ordinary purposes for which such goods are sold, namely feeding them to their pets.

55. Plaintiffs and Class members relied upon Defendants' representations and claims in purchasing the recalled pet foods.

56. The recalled pet foods purchased by Plaintiffs and Class members were unfit for their ordinary purpose when sold. In fact, such pet foods were contaminated and caused severe illness and/or death of the pets that consumed them. Therefore, Defendants breached the implied warranty of merchantability in the sale of the recalled pet foods at issue.

57. Plaintiffs and members of the Class sustained damages as a proximate result of said breach of warranty.

### COUNT III - NEGLIGENCE

58. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the preceding paragraphs as if they were fully set forth herein.

59. Defendants owed a duty to pet owners who purchased its products to ensure that their pet food was safe for pets to consume and free from contamination, such that no pets consuming these products would be injured or die as a result of such consumption.

60. Defendants breached said duty as described herein above when they failed to

adhere to proper safety standards and failed to properly ensure the safety of their products when they sold contaminated pet food, proximately causing damage to Plaintiffs and members of the Class.

61. As a proximate result of the Defendants' conduct described herein, Plaintiffs and members of the Class have suffered damages as a result and continue to suffer damages as a result.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiffs hereby request a trial by jury on all issues triable by right before a jury.

#### **PRAAYER FOR RELIEF**

THEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment as follows:

1. That this Court certify this action as a Class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3), and appoint Plaintiffs and their counsel to represent the Class;
2. That this Court enter judgment and award damages in favor of Plaintiffs and the Class, and against Defendants under the theories alleged herein;
3. That this Court establish a fund for the medical monitoring of Plaintiffs' pets to discover and treat the extent of kidney damage these pets have suffered as a result of consuming Defendants' recalled pet food;
4. That this Court award Plaintiffs all attorneys' fees, expenses and costs of this suit;
5. That this Court award Plaintiffs pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum rate allowable by law, compounded daily; and

6. That this Court grant such other, further, and different relief that the Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

Dated: March 22, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

TRUJILLO RODRIGUEZ & RICHARDS, LLC

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 8 of 38

By /s/ Donna Siegel Moffa

Donna Siegel Moffa, Esquire  
Lisa J. Rodriguez, Esquire  
8 Kings Highway West  
Haddonfield, NJ 08033  
TEL: (856)795-9002  
FAX: (856)795-9887

BERGER & MONTAGUE, P.C.

Sherrie R. Savett, Esquire  
Michael T. Fantini, Esquire  
Russell D. Paul, Esquire  
1622 Locust Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 875-3000

ROVNER, ALLEN, ROVNER ZIMMERMAN &  
NASH

Robert A. Rovner, Esquire  
Jeffrey I. Zimmerman, Esquire  
175 Bustleton Pike  
Feasterville, PA 19053-6456  
(215) 698-1800

Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Class

Schedule A

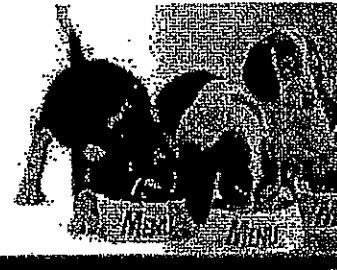
Recalled Menu Foods' Pet Food Brands<sup>1</sup>

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 9 of 38

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.menufoods.com/recall/product\\_cat.html](http://www.menufoods.com/recall/product_cat.html), accessed March 21, 2007;  
[http://www.menufoods.com/recall/product\\_dog.html](http://www.menufoods.com/recall/product_dog.html), accessed March 21, 2007.

# Menu Foods Income Fund



Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007

Page 10 of 3

[Home](#)

[Recall Information](#)

[Press Release](#)

[Cat Product Information](#)

[Dog Product Information](#)

## Recalled Dog Product Information

Recall Information 1-866-895-2708

Menu Foo  
8 Falcone  
Streetsvill  
Canada LI

1. [Americas Choice; Preferred Pets](#)
2. [Authority](#)
3. [Award](#)
4. [Best Choice](#)
5. [Big Bet](#)
6. [Big Red](#)
7. [Bloom](#)
8. [Cadillac](#)
9. [Companion](#)
10. [Dandelion Market Basket](#)
11. [Eukanuba](#)
12. [Food Lion](#)
13. [Giant Companion](#)
14. [Great Choice](#)
15. [Hannaford](#)
16. [Hill Country Fare](#)
17. [Hy-Vee](#)
18. [Jams](#)
19. [Laura Lynn](#)
20. [Loving Meals](#)
21. [Meijers Main Choice](#)
22. [Mighty Dog Pouch](#)
23. [Mixables](#)
24. [Nutriplan](#)
25. [Nutro Max](#)
26. [Nutro Natural Choice](#)
27. [Nutro Ultra](#)
28. [Nutro](#)
29. [O'Roy Canada](#)
30. [O'Roy US](#)
31. [Paws](#)
32. [Pet Essentials](#)
33. [Pet Pride - Good n Meaty](#)
34. [Presidents Choice](#)
35. [Price Chopper](#)
36. [Priority Canada](#)
37. [Priority US](#)

[http://www.menufoods.com/recall/product\\_dog.html](http://www.menufoods.com/recall/product_dog.html)

3/21/2007

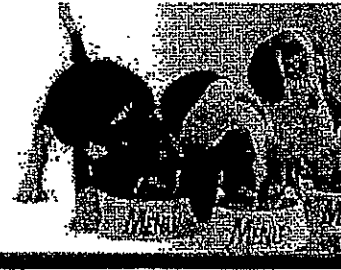
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- 38. Publix
- 39. Roche Brothers
- 40. Save-A-Lot
- 41. Schnucks
- 42. Shep Dog
- 43. Springfield Prize
- 44. Sprout
- 45. Stater Brothers
- 46. Stop & Shop Companion
- 47. Tops Companion
- 48. Wagman's Palace
- 49. Wels Total Pet
- 50. Western Family US
- 51. White Rose
- 52. Winn Dixie
- 53. Your Pet

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 11 of 3

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# MENU FOODS INCOME FUND



Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007

Page 12 of 3

[Home](#)

[Recall Information](#)

[Press Release](#)

[Cat Product Information](#)

[Dog Product Information](#)

## Recalled Cat Product Information

Recall Information 1-866-895-2708

Menu Foo  
8 Falcone  
Streetsvill  
Canada LI

1. [Americas Choice, Preferred Pets](#)
2. [Authority](#)
3. [Best Choice](#)
4. [Companion](#)
5. [Compliments](#)
6. [Demoulas Market Basket](#)
7. [Eukanuba](#)
8. [Fine Feline Cat](#)
9. [Food Lion](#)
10. [Foodtown](#)
11. [Giant Companion](#)
12. [Hannaford](#)
13. [Hill Country Fare](#)
14. [Hy-Vee](#)
15. [Iams](#)
16. [Laura Lynn](#)
17. [Lil Red](#)
18. [Loving Meals](#)
19. [Meijer's Main Choice](#)
20. [Nutriplan](#)
21. [Nutro Max Gourmet Classics](#)
22. [Nutro Natural Choice](#)
23. [Paws](#)
24. [Pet Pride](#)
25. [Presidents Choice](#)
26. [Price Chopper](#)
27. [Priority US](#)
28. [Save-A-Lot](#)
29. [Schnucks](#)
30. [Science Diet Feline Savory Cuts Cans](#)
31. [Sophistacat](#)
32. [Special Kitty Canada](#)
33. [Special Kitty US](#)
34. [Springfield Prize](#)
35. [Sprout](#)
36. [Stop & Shop Companion](#)
37. [Tops Companion](#)

[http://www.menufoods.com/recall/product\\_cat.html](http://www.menufoods.com/recall/product_cat.html)

3/21/2007

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- 38. Wegmans
- 39. Wels Total Pet
- 40. Western Family US
- 41. White Rose
- 42. Winn Dixie

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BMW-JSR Document 6  
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Filed 04/23/2007

Page 13 of 3

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000463

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

Lauri A. Osborne, Individually and On Behalf )  
of All Others Similarly Situated, )

Plaintiff,

vs.

MENU FOODS, INC.

Defendant.

No.

5.070.469 (RNC.)

307CV00469

RNC

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-CLASS ACTION Document 6 Filed 04/13/2007

Page 15 of 3

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Lauri A. Osborne brings this class action complaint against Menu Foods, Inc. ("Menu Foods") to seek redress for herself and other individuals injured by its sale of contaminated pet food throughout the United States.

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. Menu Foods, one of the largest pet food manufacturers in the world, recently issued a mass recall of 42 brands of cat food and 51 brands of dog food.
2. That recall was issued belatedly as a result of evidence that the pet food in question was contaminated with a potentially lethal agent.
3. When ingested by an animal, the contaminated pet food can cause immediate renal failure, resulting in complete shutdown of the animal's kidneys and, ultimately its death.
4. Menu Foods' actions in selling the contaminated food and failing to issue the recall sooner were reckless and in breach of its duties and warranties to its customers.

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5. Those actions were a proximate cause of injury to and the deaths of currently untold numbers of pets, including plaintiff Lauri A. Osborne's cats, as described more fully below.

6. On behalf of a nationwide class, Lauri A. Osborne seeks redress for that misconduct.

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 16 of 3

#### **PARTIES**

7. Plaintiff Lauri A. Osborne is a citizen of Connecticut, residing in Terryville, Litchfield County, CT.

8. Defendant Menu Foods is the self-proclaimed "leading manufacturer of private-label wet pet food in North America." It is a New Jersey Corporation with its principal place of business in New Jersey. It does business throughout the United States and throughout Connecticut. It also has offices in Ontario, Canada.

#### **JURISDICTION**

9. The Court has original jurisdiction over this complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (a) because (a) plaintiff and numerous members of her putative class are citizens of states different from those of which Menu Foods is a citizen; (b) the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interests and costs; and (c) none of the jurisdictional exceptions contained in 28 U.S.C. § 1332 (d)(4)-(5) applies to the instant action.

#### **VENUE**

10. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and (c). The Defendant transacts business in this District, and many of the acts constituting the violations of law alleged herein occurred in this District.

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## FACTS

11. Menu Foods holds itself out to the public as a manufacturer of safe, nutritious, and high-quality dog and cat food.

12. It makes numerous express warranties about the quality of its food and its manufacturing facilities.

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 17 of 3

13. For example, Menu Foods touts the claim that it “manufacture[s] the private label, wet pet-food industry’s most comprehensive product program with the highest standards of quality” and it operates “state-of-the-art” manufacturing facilities in the United States and Canada.

14. Menu Foods intended for pet owners to believe its statements and trust that its pet food is of first-rate quality.

15. On or about March 16, 2007, Menu Foods announced a recall of approximately 42 brands “cuts and gravy” style dog food and 51 brands of “cuts and gravy” style cat food, all produced at Menu Foods’ facility in Emporia, Kansas, between December 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007.

16. Weeks before the recall, Menu Foods had received numerous complaints indicating that pet food originating from the Emporia plant was killing pets.

17. As a result of these complaints, Menu Foods tested its food on approximately 40 to 50 pets. Seven of those pets died after ingesting the food.

18. Despite having actual knowledge of both the complaints it received and its own study, Menu Foods delayed for weeks before issuing the notice of recall.

19. Even then, its recall was conducted in a negligent manner. For example, both its website and the toll-free number it provided to the public were frequently non-operational.

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### FACTS RELATING TO THE NAMED PLAINTIFF

20. On or about February 25, 2007 Plaintiff purchased a 24 can variety pack of IAMS adult cat food from a Walmart store for her thirteen year-old cat, Gizmo, her thirteen year-old cat, Ziggy, and her eleven year-old cat, Oreo.

21. Menu Foods is the manufacturer of IAMS adult cat food. Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-PQR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 18 of 3

22. On or about March 4, 2007, shortly after ingesting Menu Food's cat food, Gizmo went into renal failure. Gizmo's kidneys shut down, and on March 5, 2007, she had to be put down.

23. Osborne incurred over \$1,200 in veterinary expenses relating to the attempts to save Gizmo's life and, in addition, to save her other cats. Specifically, another 13 year-old cat, Ziggy has been ill with problems since ingesting the same food, and Oreo, an 11 year-old cat owned by Osborne has also been sick.

24. Gizo had been with Osborne's family since 1994.

25. The loss of Gizmo and illness to her other pets has been devastating to Osborne.

### CLASS ALLEGATIONS

26. Osborne brings this action, pursuant to FRCP 23(b)(3), on behalf of herself and a class (the "Class") consisting of herself and all others who purchased pet food in the United States that was ultimately subject to the March 16, 2007 Menu Foods recall.

27. Upon information and belief, there are over 100,000 members of the Class such that joinder of all members is impracticable.

28. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and predominate over questions affecting individual members. Common questions for the Class include:

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(a) Did Menu Foods act negligently in failing to prevent contamination of its pet food?

(b) Did Menu Foods act negligently in failing to warn its customers in a timely and effective manner of the danger of its pet food?

(c) Did Menu Foods breach express and/or implied warranties relating to the sale of its pet food?

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007

Page 19 of 3

29. Osborne will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class, her claims are typical of the claims of the members of the class, and she has retained counsel competent and experienced in class action litigation.

30. A Class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating this controversy because, among other things, (a) joinder of all members of the class is impracticable, and (b) many members of the class cannot vindicate their rights by individual suits because their damages are small relative to the burden and expense of litigating individual actions.

## COUNT I

### (Breach of Warranties)

31. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing allegations.

32. Menu Foods breached express warranties to Plaintiff and violated the Uniform Commercial Code.

33. Menu Foods breached implied warranties to Plaintiff and violated the Uniform Commercial Code.

34. Menu Foods breached the implied warranty of merchantability.

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35. As a proximate cause of this misconduct, plaintiff and her class suffered actual damages, including without limitation the cost of the contaminated pet food and resulting veterinary bills.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, prays for the following relief:

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 20 of 3

1. An order certifying the Class as defined above;
2. An award of actual damages;
3. Appropriate injunctive relief;
4. Medical monitoring damages;
5. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs; and
6. Such further and other relief the Court deems appropriate.

## COUNT II

### (Negligence)

36. Plaintiff incorporates by references the foregoing allegations.
37. Menu Foods owed its customers a duty to offer safe, non-contaminated products in the stream of commerce.
38. Menu Foods breached this duty by failing to exercise care in the producing, processing, manufacturing and offering for sale of the contaminated pet food described herein.
39. Menu Foods further breached this duty by failing timely and effectively to warn plaintiff and the class of contamination even after it had actual knowledge of that fact and of the resulting risks.

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40. As a proximate cause thereof, plaintiff and her class suffered actual damages, including without limitation the cost of the contaminated pet food and any resulting veterinary bills.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, prays for the following relief:

Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 21 of 3

1. An order certifying the Class defined above;
2. An award of actual damages;
3. Appropriate injunctive relief;
4. Medical monitoring damages;
5. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs; and
6. Such further and other relief the Court deems appropriate.

#### JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff requests trial by jury of all claims that can be so tried.

March 26, 2007

By: 

Bruce E. Newman  
NEWMAN, CREED & ASSOCIATES  
99 North Street, Route 6  
P.O. Box 575  
Bristol, CT 06011-0575  
(860) 583-5200  
Federal Bar No.: 12301

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000471

1 **WEXLER TORISEVA WALLACE LLP**  
2 **MARK J. TAMBLYN** (State Bar No. 179272)  
3 Email: mjt@wtwlaw.us  
4 1610 Arden Way, Suite 290  
5 Sacramento, California 95815  
6 Telephone: (916) 568-1100  
7 Facsimile: (916) 568-7890

8 **KERSHAW, CUTTER, & RATINOFF, LLP**  
9 **STUART C. TALLEY** (State Bar No. 180374)  
10 E-mail: stalley@kcrlgal.com  
11 980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
12 Sacramento, California 95814  
13 Telephone: (916) 448-9800  
14 Facsimile: (916) 669-4499

15 [Additional Counsel Listed on Signature Page]

16 Attorneys for Plaintiff

17  
18 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
19 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

20 **SHIRLEY SEXTON**, on behalf of  
21 herself and all others similarly  
22 situated,

23 Plaintiff,

24 v.

25 **MENU FOODS INCOME FUND,**  
26 **MENU FOODS, INC.**, a New  
27 Jersey corporation, and **MENU**  
28 **FOODS MIDWEST**  
**CORPORATION**, a Delaware  
corporation,

Defendants.

Case No. CV07-01958-HK (ATW)

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

1 Plaintiff Shirley Sexton ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others  
2 similarly situated, alleges by and through her attorneys, upon information and  
3 belief, as follows:

4 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

5 1. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of herself and a class of  
6 consumers and entities who purchased brands of pet food manufactured by  
7 Defendants that caused pets to suffer severe illness or death. Pet owners, believing  
8 Defendants' products to be safe for pet consumption, incurred substantial expenses  
9 relating to the purchase of the pet food and to the veterinary monitoring and  
10 treatment that became necessary after their pets consumed Defendants' pet food.  
11 Such expenses were even more extreme for those pet owners whose pets became  
12 terminally ill after consuming Defendants' pet food products. Such costs arose and  
13 were exacerbated by the undue amount of time taken by Defendants to announce  
14 the dangers associated with its dog and cat foods. Although Defendants knew that  
15 pet illnesses and deaths could be related to their pet foods, Defendants waited for  
16 nearly a month before telling the public and the Food and Drug Administration  
17 (FDA) that it was recalling its products. Defendants' lethal products, and the  
18 companies' excessive delay in warning consumers and regulatory agencies as to its  
19 dangers, resulted in significant financial loss to thousands of pet owners.

20 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 2. The Court has original jurisdiction over this class action pursuant to 28  
22 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).

23 3. Venue in this judicial district is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(1)  
24 because Plaintiff resides in this judicial district. Venue is also proper pursuant to  
25 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving  
26 rise to the claim occurred in this judicial district.

27 4. The members of the putative Class have suffered aggregate damages  
28 exceeding \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

**PARTIES**

5. Plaintiff Shirley Sexton is a resident of Los Angeles County, California.

6. Defendant Menu Foods Income Fund is a Canadian company with its principal executive offices located at 8 Falconer Drive, Streetsville, Ontario,

Canada L5N 1B8. Case 07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 25 of 3

7. Defendant Menu Foods, Inc. is a New Jersey corporation with its principal executive offices located at 9130 Griffith Morgan Lane, Pennsauken, New Jersey 08110.

8. Defendant Menu Foods Midwest Corporation is a Delaware corporation with its principal executive offices located at P.O. Box 1046, 1400 East Logan Avenue, Emporia, Kansas 66801. Menu Foods Midwest Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Menu Foods, Inc.

9. Unless otherwise stated, Defendants Menu Foods Income Fund, Menu Foods, Inc., and Menu Foods Midwest Corporation are collectively referenced as "Defendants."

10. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants were the agents, principals, employees, servants, partners, joint venturers, and representatives of each other. In doing the acts hereinafter alleged, they each were acting within the scope and course of their authority as such agents, principals, employees, servants, partners, joint venturers, and representatives, and were acting with the permission and consent of the other Defendant.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11. Defendants manufacture and sell pet food internationally and are the biggest supplier of pet food in North America.

12. Defendants sell pet food under nearly 100 different brand names, some of which are the most popular brands of dog and cat food in the industry – e.g., Iams, Eukanuba, Science Diet, among others.

13. Defendants sell their brands internationally and in some of the largest

1 major retail chains in the United States, such as Wal-Mart, Safeway, Kroger,  
2 PetSmart and Meijer.

3 14. On March 16, 2007, Defendants, in conjunction with the Food and Drug  
4 Administration (FDA), announced a massive immediate recall of approximately 60  
5 million containers of "cuts and gravy" pet food (pet food consisting of pieces of  
6 meat in gravy) throughout the United States based on widespread reports of pet  
7 illness and death, mostly related to kidney failure. The recall covers all "cuts and  
8 gravy" we pet food produced and distributed by Defendants, including over ninety  
9 different brands of dog and cat food. Some of the brands recalled include, Iams,  
10 Eukanuba, Best Choice, Paws, and Nutro Max. Defendants' recall is the largest pet  
11 food recall in United States history.

12 15. However, Defendants waited an excessive period of time before deciding  
13 to recall its harmful and lethal products. Defendants first started receiving  
14 complaints of pet illnesses and deaths as early as late-February, almost a full month  
15 before deciding to recall its products. *See, e.g., CBSNews.com, Pet Food Co.*  
16 *Knew of Problem Last Month*, March 20, 2007, at  
17 <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2007/03/20/national/main2587087.shtml> (last  
18 viewed March 22, 2007). Rather than announcing its products could be harmful to  
19 pets as soon as it learned of pet illnesses and deaths, Defendants decided to conduct  
20 its own testing. Defendants conducted tests involving over 50 animals to observe  
21 reactions to its pet foods. Approximately one in six of the animals tested died. Yet,  
22 Defendants again waited until as many as seven test subjects died after eating its pet  
23 food before finally submitting its findings to the FDA and deciding that a recall and  
24 announcement to the public would be necessary.

25 16. Due in no small part to this unnecessary and protracted delay, as of  
26 March 21, 2007 there have been at least seventy-two reported pet deaths from  
27 kidney failure nationwide and additional deaths continue to be reported by the hour.  
28 One source indicated that 1,715 dogs and cats were either sick or dead as a result of

1 the recalled food products. See <http://www.petconnection.com/blog/> (last viewed  
2 March 22, 2007).

3 17. Pet owners purchased Defendants' products believing them to be safe for  
4 pet consumption and beneficial to their pets. However, the "cuts and gravy" style  
5 pet food that pet owners across the nation have fed their pets has proved to be toxic,  
6 causing renal failure in cats and dogs as well as physical disorders such as  
7 dehydration, diarrhea, loss of appetite, increased thirst, lethargy, and vomiting.

8 18. Pet owners have incurred substantial expenses relating both to the  
9 purchase of Defendants' pet food and from the medical costs associated with  
10 monitoring and treating pets who have consumed, or were thought to have  
11 consumed, Defendants' contaminated food products. Indeed, several pet owners  
12 have accrued veterinary bills that have climbed into the several thousands of  
13 dollars. Furthermore, for those pet owners whose pets became terminally ill, they  
14 were forced to incur additional costs relating to their pets death, such as euthanizing  
15 and, for some, burying or cremating their pet.

16 19. Currently, Defendants still have not identified the cause of the food  
17 toxicity. However, aminopterin, a substance found in rat poisons, was recently  
18 discovered in the recalled foods.

19 20. In addition, pet owners who have become increasingly concerned about  
20 their pet's health after learning of the recall have received little to no relief from  
21 Defendants. Defendants have failed to manage the high volume of incoming  
22 complaints. Since instituting the recall, pet owners have been largely unable to  
23 reach Defendants' customer service representatives, often encountering busy  
24 signals or voicemail messages. See, e.g., *Thejournalnews.com*, *Pet Owners*  
25 *Growling over Food Recall*, March 20, 2007, at  
26 <http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070320/BUSINESS>  
27 [01/703200345/1066](http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070320/BUSINESS) (last viewed March 22, 2007). To be sure, Defendants have  
28 been criticized for not being cooperative with customers, for not getting helpful

1 information out to the public sooner and for failing to "get control of the crisis . . .  
2 employ[ing] a bunker mentality in times of trouble." Joseph R. Perone, The Star-  
3 Ledger, *Menu Foods Fails Test in Crisis Management*, March 21, 2007, available  
4 at [http://www.nj.com/starledger/stories/index.ssf?/base/business-](http://www.nj.com/starledger/stories/index.ssf?/base/business-6/117445534784930.xml&coll=187016)

5 [6/117445534784930.xml&coll=187016](http://www.nj.com/starledger/stories/index.ssf?/base/business-6/117445534784930.xml&coll=187016) (last viewed March 23, 2007) Filed 04/23/2007

Page 28 of 3

6 21. Since the recall, Defendants have received scores of complaints and  
7 questions from consumers who have purchased its contaminated pet food products  
8 and from those whose pets have become ill or died after consuming those products.

9 22. The complaints found throughout the Internet and in many of the news  
10 stories mentioned above each contain the same common theme of consumers who  
11 unwittingly purchased Defendants' food products and who were forced to take their  
12 pets to veterinarians for medical treatment after their pets became extremely, and  
13 sometimes terminally ill.

14 23. Plaintiff Shirley Sexton regularly purchased *Special Kitty* brand wet pet  
15 food from Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. before the recall was announced.

16 24. Four cats lived in Ms. Sexton's household. Two of Ms. Sexton's three  
17 cats, Red and Kelso, ate the *Special Kitty* pet food every day. Spike, a cat  
18 belonging to Ms. Sexton's daughter, also ate *Special Kitty* pet food on a daily basis.

19 25. On or March 16 and March 17, 2007, Shirley noticed that both Red and  
20 Kelso were ill. She took Red and her two other cats in to the veterinarian. Two of  
21 the three cats, including Kelso, were initially found to be healthy. However, the  
22 veterinarian discovered Red had kidney failure and decided to keep Red overnight.  
23 On March 20, 2007, the veterinarian determined that Red's condition had  
24 significantly worsened and Ms. Sexton, in order to spare her pet from suffering any  
25 further, made the decision to have Red euthanized that same day.

26 26. After her experience with Red, Ms. Sexton also brought her daughter's  
27 cat, Spike, to the veterinarian for testing. The veterinarian determined that Spike –  
28 who also ate Wal-Mart's *Special Kitty* brand food – was suffering from kidney

1 failure. As of the date of this complaint, Spike remains in the veterinary hospital.

2 27. To date, Ms. Sexton has incurred at least \$1,100 in veterinary bills.

3 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

4 28. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of  
5 Civil Procedure 23(a) and 23(b) on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated  
6 as members of the following class (the "Class"): All persons and entities that  
7 purchased "cuts and gravy" style dog or cat food manufactured, distributed,  
8 marketed and/or sold by Defendants.

9 29. Subject to additional information obtained through further investigation  
10 and discovery, the Class definition may be expanded or narrowed by amendment or  
11 amended complaint. Specifically excluded from the proposed Class are business  
12 entities for purposes of Plaintiff's claim for relief under the California Consumers  
13 Legal Remedies Act, Civil Code § 1750, *et seq.* Also specifically excluded are  
14 Defendants, their officers, directors, agents, trustees, parents, children,  
15 corporations, trusts, representatives, employees, principals, servants, partners, joint  
16 venturers, or entities controlled by Defendants, and their heirs, successors, assigns,  
17 or other persons or entities related to or affiliated with Defendants and/or their  
18 officers and/or directors, or any of them; the Judge assigned to this action, and any  
19 member of the Judge's immediate family.

20 30. **Numerosity.** The members of the Class are so numerous that their  
21 individual joinder is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that  
22 basis alleges, that the proposed class contains tens of thousands of members. The  
23 precise number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff. The true number of  
24 Class members are known by Defendants, however, and thus, may be notified of  
25 the pendency of this action by first class mail, electronic mail, and by published  
26 notice.

27 31. **Existence and Predominance of Common Questions of Law and**  
28 **Fact.** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and

1 predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. These  
2 common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 3 a. Whether Defendants intentionally, recklessly or negligently authorized  
4 injurious pet food to enter the market;
- 5 b. Whether Defendants failed to properly test their "cuts and gravy" style  
6 dog and cat food before market entry of such food;
- 7 c. Whether Defendants intentionally, recklessly or negligently delayed in  
8 instituting a recall of its "cuts and gravy" style dog and cat food;
- 9 d. Whether Defendants' recall is adequate and properly notifies  
10 potentially affected consumers;
- 11 e. Whether Defendants' conduct constituted unlawful, unfair, or  
12 fraudulent business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code  
13 §§ 17200, et seq., as alleged herein;
- 14 f. Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of their  
15 conduct, as alleged herein;
- 16 g. Whether Plaintiff and members of the Class have sustained damages as  
17 a result of Defendants' conduct, and, if so, what is the appropriate  
18 measure of damages; and
- 19 h. Whether Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to punitive  
20 damages, and, if so, in what amount.

21 32. **Typicality.** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members  
22 of the Class in that Plaintiff and each member of the Class purchased "cuts and  
23 gravy" style dog or cat food manufactured, distributed, marketed and/or sold by  
24 Defendants.

25 33. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately  
26 protect the interests of the members of the Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel  
27 experienced in complex consumer class action litigation, and Plaintiff intends to  
28 prosecute this action vigorously. Plaintiff has no adverse or antagonistic interests

1 to those of the Class.

2 34. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to all other available means for  
3 the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The damages or other  
4 financial detriment suffered by individual Class members is relatively small  
5 compared to the burden and expense that would be entailed by individual litigation  
6 of their claims against the Defendants. It would thus be virtually impossible for  
7 Class, on an individual basis, to obtain effective redress for the wrongs done to  
8 them. Furthermore, even if Class members could afford such individualized  
9 litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation would create the  
10 danger of inconsistent or contradictory judgments arising from the same set of facts.  
11 Individualized litigation would also increase the delay and expense to all parties  
12 and the court system from the issues raised by this action. By contrast, the class  
13 action device provides the benefits of adjudication of these issues in a single  
14 proceeding, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court,  
15 and presents no unusual management difficulties under the circumstances here.

16 35. In the alternative, the Class may be certified because:

- 17 a. the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members  
18 would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudication with respect  
19 to individual Class members that would establish incompatible  
20 standards of conduct for the Defendants;
- 21 b. the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would  
22 create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a  
23 practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class members  
24 not parties to the adjudications, or substantially impair or impede their  
25 ability to protect their interests; and/or
- 26 c. Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally  
27 applicable to the Class thereby making appropriate final and injunctive  
28 relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

1 36. Adequate notice can be given to Class members directly using  
2 information maintained in Defendants' records, or through publication notice.

3 37. Defendants benefited from the sale of its "cuts and gravy" style dog and  
4 cat food to Plaintiff and the Class. The benefit to Defendants can be identified from  
5 the sale of such pet food to Plaintiff and the Class and that such monies can be  
6 restored to Plaintiff and the Class. Such monies are the property of the Plaintiff and  
7 the Class. All or a portion of this benefit retained by Defendants is money in which  
8 Plaintiff and the Class have an ownership interest. Plaintiff and the Class were  
9 injured and lost money as a result of Defendants' unfair, unlawful and fraudulent  
10 business practices described herein.

11  
12 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

13 **[Violation of Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq.*]**

14 38. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding  
15 allegations as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each  
16 and every Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

17 39. Defendants are each a "person" as defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(c).

18 40. Plaintiff and the proposed Class members are "consumers" within the  
19 meaning of Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d).

20 41. Plaintiff's purchase of dog and cat food manufactured, distributed,  
21 marketed and sold by Defendants constitute "transactions" within the meaning of  
22 Civil Code section 1761(e) and 1770.

23 42. Defendants' conduct violated and continues to violate the CLRA in at  
24 least the following respects:

- 25 a. In violation of Section 1770(a)(1) of the CLRA, Defendants  
26 misrepresented the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of  
27 goods or services; and  
28

1 b. In violation of Section 1770(a)(5) of the CLRA, Defendants  
2 represented that its goods or services sponsorship, approval,  
3 characteristics, uses or benefits which they do not have.

4 43. Defendants engaged in these unfair or deceptive acts and practices with  
5 the intent that they result, and which did result, in the sale of dog and cat food to  
6 Plaintiff and the Class.

7 44. In engaging in unfair or deceptive conduct in violation of the CLRA,  
8 Defendants actively concealed and intentionally failed to disclose material facts  
9 about the characteristics of their dog and cat food, and further represented that such  
10 food was suitable for pet consumption.

11 45. As a result of Defendants' acts and practices as alleged in this  
12 Complaint, Plaintiff seeks an Order enjoining Defendants from continuing to  
13 engage in unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices, and any other act  
14 prohibited by law. Plaintiff has contemporaneous with this filing provided notice to  
15 Defendants, and will amend to add claims for damages under the CLRA if  
16 Defendants do not take appropriate corrective action.

17 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
18 **[Negligence]**

19 46. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding  
20 allegations as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each  
21 and every Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

22 47. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiff and the Class to provide pet food  
23 safe and suitable for pet consumption.

24 48. Through their failure to exercise due care, Defendants were negligent in  
25 manufacturing, distributing, marketing and selling pet food to Plaintiff and the  
26 Class.

27 49. Defendants failed to implement adequate quality control and adequate  
28 testing of its pet food that they introduced into the stream of commerce for sale to  
Plaintiff and the Class and for consumption by their pets.

1 50. Defendants knew, or should have known, that their pet food, as  
2 described above, presents an unreasonable and unacceptable risk of injury or death  
3 to pets, and would result in foreseeable and avoidable damage.

4 51. The losses and damages described herein were foreseeable and  
5 avoidable. Case 3:07-cv-00706-BTM-POR Document 6 Filed 04/23/2007 Page 34 of 3

6 52. Defendants' negligence proximately caused the losses and damages to  
7 Plaintiff and the Class.

8 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
9 **[Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law,**  
10 **Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*]**

11 53. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the preceding  
12 allegations as though fully set forth herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each  
13 and every Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

14 54. Defendants' acts and practices, described herein, constitute unlawful,  
15 unfair or fraudulent business practices in violation of the Unfair Competition Law,  
16 Business & Professions Code sections 17200 *et seq.* ("UCL").

17 55. The utility of Defendants' manufacturing, distribution, marketing and/or  
18 sale of contaminated dog and cat food is significantly outweighed by the gravity of  
19 the harm they impose on Plaintiff and the Class. Defendants' acts and practices are  
20 oppressive, unscrupulous or substantially injurious to consumers.

21 56. The above-described unfair, unlawful and fraudulent business practices  
22 conducted by Defendants present a threat and likelihood of harm and deception to  
23 members of the Class in that Defendants have systematically perpetrated and  
24 continue to perpetrate the unfair, unlawful and fraudulent conduct upon members of  
25 the public by engaging in the conduct described herein.

26 57. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered harm as a proximate result of the  
27 wrongful conduct of the Defendants alleged herein, and therefore bring this claim  
28 for relief for restitution and disgorgement. Plaintiff is a person who has suffered

1 injury in fact and has lost money and property as a result of such unfair  
2 competition.

3 58. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code sections 17200 and 17203,  
4 Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, seeks an order of this Court: enjoining  
5 Defendants from continued manufacture, distribution, marketing and sale of "cuts  
6 and gravy" style dog and cat food in an unfair, unlawful and fraudulent manner, and  
7 an order enjoining Defendants from collecting money from the Class from the sale  
8 of pet food. Plaintiff further requests an order awarding Plaintiff and the Class  
9 restitution and disgorgement of profits acquired by Defendants by means of such  
10 unlawful acts and practices, so as to deter Defendants and to rectify Defendants'  
11 unfair and unlawful practices and to restore any and all monies to Plaintiff and the  
12 Class, which are still retained by Defendants, plus interest and attorneys' fees and  
13 costs pursuant to, *inter alia*, Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.

14 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
15 **[For Unjust Enrichment]**

16 59. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs  
17 previously alleged herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each and every  
18 Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

19 60. Defendants have received, and continue to receive, a benefit at the  
20 expense of Plaintiff and members of the Class. Defendants have knowledge of this  
21 benefit.

22 61. Defendants have charged and collected from consumers, including  
23 Plaintiff and members of the Class, money for dog and cat food that endangers the  
24 lives of their pets. Defendants thus have received benefits that they have unjustly  
25 retained at the expense of Plaintiff and members of the Class.

26 62. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unlawful acts and  
27 conduct, Plaintiff and members of the Class were deprived of the use of their  
28 monies that was unlawfully charged and collected by Defendants, and are therefore

1 entitled to restoration of their monies.

2  
3 **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**[Breach Of Express Warranty]**

4 63. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs  
5 previously alleged herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each and every  
6 Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

7 64. Defendants expressly warranted that their "cuts and gravy" style pet food  
8 was suitable and safe for pet consumption.

9 65. Defendants also expressly warranted that "it manufacturer[s] the private-  
10 label wet pet-food industry's most comprehensive product program with the highest  
11 standards of quality."

12 66. Plaintiff and the Class were induced by Defendants' marketing,  
13 advertising, promotion and labeling of the pet food as suitable "food" to rely upon  
14 such express warranty, and, in fact, relied upon the untrue warranty in purchasing  
15 the recalled pet food and feeding it to their pets.

16 67. Plaintiff and the Class were damaged as a proximate result of  
17 Defendants' breach of their express warranty.

18 **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
**[Breach Of Implied Warranty]**

19 68. Plaintiff hereby realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs  
20 previously alleged herein. Plaintiff asserts this claim against each and every  
21 Defendant on behalf of herself and the Class.

22 69. Defendants are merchants under section 2-104 and 2-314 of the Uniform  
23 Commercial Code.

24 70. Through their marketing, advertising, promotion and labeling of their  
25 "cuts and gravy" style pet food, Defendants impliedly warranted that such pet food  
26 was fit for the ordinary purpose for which it was intended, including to safely  
27 nourish pets with risk of illness or death, pursuant to section 2-314 of the Uniform  
28

1 Commercial Code.

2 71. Through their marketing, advertising, promotion and labeling,  
3 Defendants knew that Plaintiff and the Class would purchase their pet food for the  
4 ordinary purpose of providing nourishment to their pets.

5 72. Defendants manufactured, distributed, marketed, advertised, promoted  
6 and sole their pet food for the ordinary purpose for which it was purchased by  
7 Plaintiff and the Class.

8 73. Plaintiff and the Class relied upon Defendants' representations and  
9 warranties, and purchased and used Defendants' pet food for the ordinary purpose  
10 for which it was sold.

11 74. Defendants' pet food purchased by Plaintiff and the Class were unfit for  
12 their ordinary purpose when sold. Such food was sold while presenting a risk of  
13 risk of illness or death to pets. Defendants have accordingly breached the implied  
14 warranty of merchantability by selling such unfit pet food.

15 75. Plaintiff and the Class were damaged as a proximate result of  
16 Defendants' breach of warranty.

17 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

18 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly  
19 situated, prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 20 1. For an order certifying the Class under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of  
21 Civil Procedure and appointing Plaintiff and her counsel of record to  
22 represent the Class;
- 23 2. For restitution, disgorgement and/or other equitable relief as the Court  
24 deems proper;
- 25 3. That pursuant to sections 17203 and 17204 of the Business and  
26 Professions Code, Defendants be permanently enjoined from  
27 performing or proposing to perform any of the aforementioned acts of  
28 unfair, unlawful and fraudulent business practices;

4. For compensatory damages sustained by Plaintiff and all others similarly situated as a result of Defendants' unlawful acts and conduct;
5. For punitive damages pursuant to Civil Code § 1780(a)(4);
7. For a permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants from engaging in the conduct and practices complained of herein;
8. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
9. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit, including expert witness fees; and
10. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

To the full extent available, Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

Dated: March 26, 2007

**WEXLER TORISEVA WALLACE LLP**

By

  
Mark J. Tamblyn

1610 Arden Way, Suite 290  
Sacramento, California 95815  
Telephone: (916) 568-1100  
Facsimile: (916) 568-7890

Kenneth A. Wexler  
**WEXLER TORISEVA WALLACE LLP**  
One North LaSalle St., Suite 2000  
Chicago, Illinois 60602  
Telephone: (312) 346-2222  
Facsimile: (312) 346-0022

Stuart C. Talley  
**KERSHAW, CUTTER, & RATINOFF, LLP**  
980 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Telephone: (916) 448-9800  
Facsimile: (916) 669-4499

*Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class*